

**CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR MAY 19, 2015**

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Lisa Dale Jones, Monte Edwards, Drury Tallant, Susan Burgerman, Patrick Crowley, Undine Nash, Jeff Fletcher, Jim Taylor, Janet Quigley, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Larry Pearl, Greg Holeyman, Carl Spier

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the April 21 meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet, but the March 17 minutes (which had been left out of the April meeting packet) were not. It was decided that the March minutes could be approved by email. **Moved:** A motion to approve the April minutes, **seconded and approved.**

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley

- House Tour: Income from the 2015 House Tour was roughly \$68,000, including the \$26,900 from brochure ads that had not been received yet. Expenses came to \$20,000, which was \$3,000 over budget. By comparison, the 2014 House Tour brought in \$70,000; expenses only came to \$13,000. Patrick noted that the bank had recommended that in future CHRS not use BluePay or PayPal for credit card sales, and use WorldPay instead.
- The Tour went over budget for two reasons: the Committee had been under the mistaken impression that DAR would take care of refreshments as well as providing volunteers for the location; and ads had cost approximately twice what was budgeted.
- Mimi Wolf gave a contribution of \$1,000 to the Dick Wolf Memorial Fund.
- Discussion of the Swampoodle grants account: There remains \$155,500 in the account (3 awarded projects are still incomplete), down from 230,400 in May 2014. This means that only around one-third of the original grant funds have been distributed. An increase in applications could be anticipated when and if the Swampoodle Historic District is approved.

President's Report – Lisa Dale Jones

- Gary Peterson and Lisa met with the DC Preservation League leadership to discuss the possibility of future joint activities and approaches to zoning issues. DCPL President John Sandor expressed an interest in speaking at the CHRS fall members' meeting on the subject of taking care of old houses.
- The Annual Members' Meeting will be held on Monday, June 15 at the Community Church on Barracks Row. The new board will be announced during the 6:45 meeting period, followed at 7:00 by the guest speaker: Stephen Ayers, Architect of the Capitol. Mr. Ayers will focus on the Capitol dome renovations. Community Church is donating the space and an audiovisual person.
- The President's Party will be on June 7 from 4:00-6:00 at the home of Michelle Carroll. Board members were requested to make certain that everyone who had participated in the House Tour receives an invitation.
- The board's Summer Retreat will be held on a Saturday morning, date and location are to be decided.
- Member Jennifer Cate has volunteered to administer the CHRS Facebook page. She has already begun posting items from the website and newsletter. This service is particularly important in reaching out to more recent, younger members of the community.

- Committee Chairs: in order to grow the board – both in size and diversity – some committee chairs currently held by elected board members will be opened up as of July 1 for volunteers. These include the following committees: House Tour, Communications, Budget and Administration, and Public Safety. Board members are encouraged to come up with volunteers for those posts.
- Letters signed and submitted on behalf of CHRS in the last month: comments on the Marine Barracks relocation EIS; as part of the Union Station Preservation Coalition, comments on the plan prepared by Building Conservation Associates; comments on DDOT’s proposed new “entertainment district” signage regulations.

House Tour – Patrick Crowley

- Discussion of feedback that some people who attended the Tour have offered.

Board Elections – Elizabeth Nelson

- Ballots are ready to be printed tonight, provided that the printer has received the logo.

Swampoodle Status Report – Drury Tallant

- The decision to extend the Historic District to include Swampoodle has been pushed back to May 28. Drury has been going door to door to get out support. Most neighbors with whom he has spoken are in favor. He has also been taking the opportunity to remind them of the grant program.
- Union Station: A report has been drafted identifying priorities for preservation. Many of the comments that the Preservation Coalition has submitted have been adopted in the text, and the new director appears receptive to preservation concerns. The report will be made accessible online; there could be a link to it from the CHRS website.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell

- In an unusual move, the Committee voted not to object to the demolition of a 1941 Pepco substation, on the grounds that the building currently serves no constructive purpose and contains too many hazardous materials to reasonably restore it. It is assumed that Pepco intends to clean up the site and sell it. It is a large lot, and hopefully will be put to good use.
- Barracks relocation: there has been a concerted effort by local organizations to protect lower 8th St, and to advocate for using only federal property for the new barracks.
- DDOT pending proposals: the Council is invoking a public “round table” (as distinct from a formal public hearing) to hear opinions on public use of triangle parks and oversized LED signage for entertainment venues in residential areas. The Committee has concerns for both issues.

City Planning – Monte Edwards

Virginia Ave Tunnel status: the Committee of 100 has uncovered evidence of predetermination and sweetheart deals between DDOT and CSX in agreements dating back to 2010. The agreements are all contingent on DDOT providing CSX with permits to dig the VAT. The US Appellate Court for DC sent the case back to the DC Court of Appeals (**Monte?**) to respond to these allegations within one day. Briefs are being filed by CSX, the federal government, DDOT, and the Mayor’s office defending the VAT. Once these are filed, the C100 will have three days in which to respond.

Newsletter – Lisa Dale Jones

Preservation Briefs	Beth
Union Station update	Drury
House Tour wrap up	Patrick

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm